

Reassignment of Old Plates to a Collector Vehicle

New Policy

Old California plates (regular series) may be re-assigned to a collector vehicle, even if the **vehicle** has a database record under a different license plate, when **all** of the following conditions are met:

- Evidence is submitted to show that the old plates were once registered (assigned) **to** the collector vehicle in California (see new requirements below).
- The **old** plate number is not on record or reserved as a special interest plate in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) database.
- The old plate's combination of letters and numbers do not carry any connotations offensive to good taste and decency.
- The owner (collector) has both the front and rear old plates for an automobile or commercial vehicle or the single old plate for a motorcycle or trailer.

New Requirements

To put old, regular series California plates back on the collector vehicle, the original **or** a photocopy of the California title, registration card, or renewal notice must be submitted to the DMV to show that the plates were once registered to the vehicle (a copy may only be used as proof the plates were registered to the vehicle; a copy cannot be used for any other DMV purpose).

Procedures

To have the old, regular series California plates re-assigned to the vehicle submit:

- The proof that the plates were once registered to the vehicle (as noted above).
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) from the vehicle owner stating in section G and signing in section H to certify:
 - The old plate number to be assigned to the vehicle.
 - The old plates will not be affixed to the vehicle unless DMV sends approval.
 - The plates currently on the vehicle will be surrendered to DMV if the old plates are approved.
 - Their daytime telephone number so the DMV can call if they have a question.
- There is **no** fee to reregister the old plates; however, any other fees or renewal fees due within the next 75 days must be paid.
- All the required original documents for the application (transfer, nonresident, etc.) in addition to old plate application requirements.

NOTE: A collector who submitted all of their evidence that the **plate** was registered to the vehicle in a prior attempt to have the old plates assigned, and was denied by the DMV because the collector **vehicle** had a database record under another license plate number, may explain the previous denial reason and the reason they have no old plate evidence on the REG 256 in section G. The application will be reviewed and reconsidered by DMV headquarters.

Customer Information

Please inform your customer that processing may take approximately 60 days, **and** if the request to reassign the old plates is:

- **Approved** – a new registration card with the old plate number showing as the license plate number and new set of month/year stickers will be mailed to the registered owner. The owner must put the old plates with the month/year stickers on the vehicle and surrender the plates removed from the vehicle to DMV.
- **Denied** – a denial letter will be sent and the customer must retain their current plates on the vehicle, or if issued new regular series plates must put them on the vehicle.

NOTE: Due to database limitations, a plate that still has a record cannot be reregistered. Therefore, customers returning to California after registering their vehicle out-of-state cannot have their old California plates reassigned to their collector vehicle, if there is still an existing record of the old **plate** (unless the plate qualifies under the Year of Manufacture program).

Definitions

Collector Vehicle – is a special interest vehicle of any age which is unaltered from the manufacturer's original specifications. Because of the vehicle's significance, such as an out-of-production vehicle, or a model of less than 2,000 vehicles sold in California in any model year, it is being collected, preserved, restored, or maintained by a collector or hobbyist for purposes of restoration, maintenance, or exhibition.

Collector – is the owner of one or more historical or special interest vehicles who collects, purchases, acquires, trades, or disposes of such vehicle(s), or parts thereof, for his or her own use, in order to preserve, restore, and maintain such vehicle(s) for hobby or historical purposes.

Background

DMV previously only reassigned old, regular series California plates if both the collector vehicle **and** the old plate were not on the database record. Old, regular series **plates** (without a database record) may now be reregistered to a collector **vehicle**, whether the vehicle has a database record or not. Previously only an original California title or registration card was allowed as evidence that the plate was once registered to the vehicle.

Reference

California Vehicle Code §§5051, 5200

California Code of Regulations - Title 13, Article 3.1, §170.00

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online, at **www.dmv.ca.gov** under Publications was made, via the E-mail Alert Service in August 2009.

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Shiimoto". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a cursive script for the rest of the name.

JEAN SHIOMOTO, Deputy Director
Communication Programs Division